the land-owners for exploration and production of hydrocarbons, as and when required. Compensation is paid by these companies to the land-owners as per the prevailing Government rates and legal requirements.

(b) to (d) Compensations have accordingly been paid by ONGC, OIL and Private/J.V. companies to the affected agriculturists. The details of State-wise compensation paid during the last three years, i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, are reported to be as follows:

State	(Amount in Rs. Lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	577.17
Tamil Nadu	155.17
Assam	310.06
Gujarat	3174.44
Rajasthan	67.02
Maharashtra	5.89
Tripura	161.36
West Bengal	34.72
UP and Uttaranchal	31.37

New oil wells at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

† 969. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan of digging new wells in Kharpas area of Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan due to availability of oil in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether high quality Gas resources of Kharpas are being utilised in abundance by Gabber Sui Gas Field, Pakistan which is near the Indian territory; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

No oil has been found in the Kharatar area of Jaisalmer basin in 'the State of Rajasthan. However, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has earlier found natural gas in Kharatar structure and also recently in Chinnewala Tibba prospect. ONGC plan to carry out Two-dimensional (2-D)/Three-dimensional (3-D) Seismic data acquisition in this area for mapping the prospect and after due integration shall delineate the find through drilling of wells etc.

(c) and (d) Sui Gas field of Pakistan is situated around 140-150 kilimeters away from the Indo-Pak border and as such there is no possibility of natural gas from Kharatar area being exploited through this field.

Setback in oil exploration

†970. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the work of exploration of oil and natural gas has received a setback recently;

(b) the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the obstacles coming in the way of speedy exploration of oil in new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) There has been no recent setback in the work of exploration for oil and natural gas in any of the states. Appropriate measures as warranted by the prevalent situation in the areas under exploration have been taken.

New LNG Policy

971. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the LNG policy to address the issues relating to pricing of fuel is going to come before Parliament for its consideration;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in bringing it before Parliament;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.